

6 (c) correlating the at least one [abnormality] **abnormal pattern or distribution** with  
7 said illness.

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1 41. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein antibiotic therapy is initiated  
2 and a diagnostic work-up for the illness, comprising obtaining a blood culture from the patient, is  
3 provided when the at least one characteristic [abnormality] **abnormal pattern or distribution**  
4 is identified.

1 43. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein a diagnostic work-up for the  
2 illness, comprising an X-ray of the infant or a pathological specimen from the infant, is provided  
3 when the at least one characteristic [abnormality] **abnormal pattern or distribution** is  
4 identified.

1 47. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 45, wherein the at least one characteristic  
2 [abnormality] **abnormal pattern or distribution** is identified based on at least one of the third  
3 and higher moments of the data set.

1 52. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 45, wherein the at least one characteristic  
2 [abnormality] **abnormal pattern or distribution** is identified based on at least one percentile  
3 value of the data set.

1 55. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 45, wherein the at least one characteristic  
2 [abnormality] **abnormal pattern or distribution** is identified based on the variance, standard  
3 deviation or coefficient of variation of the data set.

1 61. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein a diagnostic work-up is  
2 provided when the at least one characteristic [abnormality] **abnormal pattern or distribution**  
3 is identified.

1           68. (Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein the at least one characteristic  
2   **[abnormality] abnormal pattern or distribution** is identified from a set of RR intervals.

1           69. (Amended) An apparatus for early detection of subacute, potentially catastrophic  
2   infectious illness in a patient, **wherein the patient is an infant, a newborn infant, a toddler,**  
3   **or a child, the apparatus** comprising:

4           (a) a monitoring device, continuously monitoring **[heart rate variability] time series of**  
5   **RR intervals** in the patient; and

6           (b) a microprocessor, identifying at least one characteristic **[abnormality] abnormal**  
7   **pattern or distribution** in the **[heart rate variability] RR intervals** that is associated with the  
8   illness.

1           71. (Amended) The apparatus of claim **[70] 69**, wherein the microprocessor performs  
2   the step of generating a normalized data set of RR intervals.

1           72. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 71, wherein the microprocessor calculates one  
2   or more of the third and higher moments of the data set and identifies the characteristic  
3   **[abnormality] abnormal pattern or distribution** based on the one or more moments.

1           73. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the microprocessor calculates the  
2   skewness of the data set and identifies the characteristic **[abnormality] abnormal pattern or**  
3   **distribution** based on the skewness.

1           74. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the microprocessor calculates the  
2   kurtosis of the data set and identifies the characteristic **[abnormality] abnormal pattern or**  
3   **distribution** based on the kurtosis.

1           75. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 71, wherein the microprocessor calculates one  
2   or more percentile values of the data set and identifies the characteristic **[abnormality]**  
3   **abnormal pattern or distribution** based on the one or more percentile values.